

BLAINE SCHOOL DISTRICT 503

MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2003

RECEIVED

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MEMO TO: To Whom It May Concern
FROM: Dr. Mary Lynn Derrington, Superintendent
SUBJECT: Proposed BP CoGen Plant

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

With the addition of a CoGen plant at the BP – Cherry Point Refinery it would add a number of additional benefits to the citizens and students of the Blaine School District.

Currently, the Blaine School District's assessed valuation is \$2,158,983,939. The majority of this high assessment is due to B.P. and because of this high assessed value the citizens of the Blaine School District benefit from a very low levy assessment. With the addition of the CoGen plant the assessed valuation would increase by \$500,000,000 bringing our total assessed value to \$2,658,983,939. Such an increase would result in the taxpayers of the Blaine School District paying approximately \$1.23 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Currently our taxpayers are being assessed \$1.73 per thousand. As you can see, with the additional assessed value our citizens would be saving \$.50 per thousand on our current levy. This equates to a savings of \$75.00 per year on a \$150,000 home.

Due to these low levy rates the Blaine School District has always been able to pass our levies. Our levy rate in comparison with other districts whose rates are upwards of \$3.00 per thousand enables Blaine a distinct advantage. We not only pass our levies but we are able to run a levy to the maximum the State will allow. Not all districts are able to do this because it would be cost prohibitive to the taxpayers. Currently the Blaine School District's maintenance and operation levy is approximately 21% of our current budget. It is with the passage of the levy that Blaine School District has been able to offer an exemplary program which draws people from across the State and sometimes the nation.

This low dollar per thousand levy rate also provides the district great opportunities for the passage of our General Obligation Bonds. It is with these bonds the district builds our schools – your children's classrooms, gymnasiums, cafeterias, playgrounds, etc. The district has recently remodeled and built a number of structures with a \$19,600,000 bond. We have one remaining project to complete, our administration service center. Our estimated completion time will be Summer of 2004.

Along with a substantial savings to our taxpayers comes a number of jobs. This would enable a number of people in the Blaine area the opportunity to apply for 900 or more available positions. Our students would benefit from this as they complete high school and college enabling them to move on to a wonderful career with B.P. Currently, our students are given an indepth tour of B.P. during the beginning of each school year and by maintaining a working relationship with this company our students have been exposed to an industry which has been constant in the Blaine area. A number of students do complete college and stay in the Whatcom County area so providing more career opportunities keeps our families together.